

McChrystal during Operation Enduring Freedom.

But Colonel Thompson's service to the United States has extended beyond the military. She was a key advisor to multiple Congressional Committees, including the first Senior Military Advisor to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. Colonel Thompson also served as my National Security Advisor on the Committee on Homeland Security, where she proved to be tough, honest, and relentless in her work to defend our country against emerging and persistent threats.

I want to personally recognize the achievements of this patriot and thank Colonel Thompson for her dedication to duty and to the United States of America. Simply put, she embodies what is best about our country. Her grit is unquestioned, and her bedrock beliefs reflect the heart of American values.

We face great challenges in this still-young century, and we must inspire new generations to be equal to the task. To that end, we need guiding lights. Colonel Thompson is one of them. She is a woman whose life is a testament to the age-old truth that we are defined by our character and by our readiness to do what is right. She has already inspired many, but it is clear that Colonel Thompson's continued example will have a ripple effect far beyond our view. For that, she deserves the thanks of a very grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS HARDEMAN

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Phyllis Hardeman from Savannah who passed away on September 15, 2016. Mrs. Hardeman was a remarkable woman of many talents and interests—always using her skills to better her community and make people happy. During World War II, she served as an aircraft spotter. She took pride in knowing that no enemy planes were able to successfully attack her hometown.

Additionally, Mrs. Hardeman became a Weather Watcher for WTOC in which she kept a detailed record of Savannah's weather for the local news station. Her love of nature extended to bird watching, observing plants, and keeping up with the changes of the seasons. Some say, she even knew the scientific name for every plant in her home.

Mrs. Hardeman also loved her local sports teams, holding season passes each year to see the Georgia Bulldogs and Georgia Southern Eagles play. Mrs. Hardeman founded the Savannah Area Republican Women's club and served as its president. Now, the club is flourishing with monthly meetings and increasing membership.

She also served on numerous councils and committees throughout Savannah including the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Chatham Urban Transportation System, the John Birch Society, the Chatham County Republican Committee, the Coastal Heritage Society, Bonaventure Historical Society, Thunderbolt Garden Club, Savannah Bulldog Club, Chat-

ham Club, and the Mighty Eighth Historical Society.

Her presence lit up the Savannah community and she will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ARTHUR HAWKINS OF THE KENSINGTON, MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50-year career of an extraordinary leader in our community—Chief Arthur "Artie" Hawkins, Kensington, Maryland Volunteer Fire Department's most senior operational member. Chief Hawkins has been instrumental in developing the Kensington VFD into one of the most outstanding Departments in the region.

A third-generation firefighter, Chief Hawkins began serving the Department at the age of 12 and has dedicated his life to service. Rising through the ranks, he has served as both Department Chief and as President. As a leader and a colleague, Chief Hawkins provided the start for hundreds of volunteers who have continued serving the public through the fire service, Armed Forces, and police and medical fields. Thanks to his outstanding guidance and mentorship for so many leaders, Chief Hawkins' imprint is on the work of people who are saving lives all over the globe each and every day.

Chief Hawkins is more than a leader. He has played countless roles in the lives of the Department members, whether it be as a father, a brother or a friend. He has been there for them during the happiest moments of their lives as well as the saddest. Chief Hawkins truly embodies the meaning of "brotherhood" within the fire service.

Chief Hawkins has also been a pillar of strength during critical times in our nation's history. He has played important roles in the Department's response to numerous emergencies, including the D.C. race riots of the 1960s, the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon, and the sniper attacks that paralyzed the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area in 2002.

On November 20, 2016, Chief Hawkins will lead his final regular shift on a special day—the 50th anniversary of his very first shift with the Department. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the lifetime achievements of Chief Arthur Hawkins I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to him for his outstanding service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. I would like to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 577 and 578.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LLOYD HINOTE OF MILTON, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Lloyd Hinote, who passed away November 13, 2016. A longtime resident of Milton, Florida, Lloyd had a deep love for his family and for his community and his continued efforts to make Milton a more beautiful place has left a lasting impact that will be remembered for years to come.

Born on January 22, 1938, in Alflora, Florida to James and Verble Hinote, Lloyd spent his first eight years in nearby Indian Ford, before moving to live the remainder of his life in his beloved Milton. Lloyd graduated as 1 of 56 students in the Milton High School Class of 1956, and after high school he matriculated to Florida State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in management and finance.

Lloyd continued his education, completing The School of Banking at the University of Oklahoma, and then embarked on a successful private sector career, working as the vice president of a local bank for over twenty-four years and as a private business owner for over eighteen years, before serving almost ten years as the executive director of the Pace Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, Lloyd decided to serve his community in local government by serving on the Milton City Council.

On the Milton City Council, Councilman Hinote represented Ward IV for over 15 years. It was his leadership as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation committee that initiated the improvements at Sanders Street Park and Russell Harbor Landing. He was fully dedicated to bettering Milton, as evidenced by his work on the council to build a new city hall, fire station, wastewater treatment facility, and build and maintain countless recreation facilities.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Lloyd Hinote. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his daughter, Lisa; and grandson, Skylar.

RECOGNIZING EARL L. FULLER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earl L. Fuller, who served our country during World War II.

Mr. Fuller enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1941 at the age of 27. He was assigned to the 10th Signal Corps of the 31st Infantry, which was operating in the Pacific Theater. When the Japanese Army invaded the island of Corregidor, Mr. Fuller was taken captive. He spent a total of three years and four months as a prisoner of war.

While a prisoner, Mr. Fuller befriended a Japanese guard who wanted to learn English. The two men played baseball together and